

Regular Session, 2005

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 35

BY SENATOR MARIONNEAUX

CONDOLENCES. Expresses condolences upon the death of Private First Class Wilfred D. Bellard.

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere and heartfelt condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana to the family of United State Army Private First Class Wilfred D. Bellard upon his death in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

WHEREAS, it is with the deepest regret and most profound sorrow that the Senate has learned of the tragic and untimely death in combat of Private First Class Bellard; and

WHEREAS, Private First Class Bellard was a native of Lake Charles and attended Lake Charles-Boston High School before he moved to Georgia and graduated from high school there; and

WHEREAS, Private First Class Bellard's mother, Janet, remembers her son's enormous patriotism and his decision to enlist in the Army, saying "My son was so proud of his job in the military, he told me he loved it and was ready to go to Iraq and get the job done, and for that, he will always be a hero"; and

WHEREAS, Private First Class Bellard's death also leaves a wife, Letricia, and sons, Bishop and Wilfred Jr., to a future filled with uncertainties and challenges as his widow now attempts to rear her two small sons and provide for them without the love, care, and concern of their father; and

1 WHEREAS, Private First Class Bellard served with great distinction and dedication
2 as a member of the 41st Field Artillery Regiment and was known by his fellow soldiers as
3 someone who always placed the mission and the needs of his comrades ahead of his own
4 needs and interests; and

5 WHEREAS, it was during the carrying out of the mission on April 4, 2004, that
6 Private First Class Bellard, only 20 years of age, was ambushed on a dusty, dangerous road
7 in Iraq by heavily-armed terrorist forces who loosed a hail of deadly fire at his vehicle,
8 causing that vehicle to swerve violently to avoid the gunfire and subsequently careen into
9 a ravine where he was mortally wounded; and

10 WHEREAS, Private First Class Bellard's family, friends, and fellow soldiers will
11 sorely miss his "can do" attitude and fierce loyalty to his unit and his country, his sacrifice
12 has served to rally some persons in his community, fill that community with pride that one
13 of their own was making a difference in this nation's war on terror, and remind them that
14 freedom is never free, it comes with a terrible price sometimes, and Americans must fight
15 to protect the freedoms and liberties its citizens now enjoy.

16 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
17 does hereby express a profound sense of loss and sends its heartfelt condolences from a
18 grateful state and nation to the family of United States Army Private First Class Wilfred D.
19 Bellard.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
21 wife and mother of Private First Class Bellard.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Heyward Jeffers.

DIGEST

Expresses condolences upon the death of U.S. Army Private First Class Wilfred D. Bellard.